

“FOR MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION”

{Luke 2:30}

Luke 2:22-35

Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;

30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation

31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,

And the glory of Your people Israel."

33 And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against 35(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

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Here at Vineland Park Baptist Church we try to follow the Scriptures as much as possible without lapsing into legalism. America celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th. Although the date of His birth is not known nor revealed in the Bible one day is as good as another. Except for the fact of His birth there are no other references to His birthday. The Incarnation is noted in several places but there is no birthday per se.

There are two birthday parties recorded in the Bible. The first is Pharaoh's where the chief baker was hanged [Genesis 40:20-23]. The second is Herod's where they cut off the head of John the Baptist [Matthew 14:6-12].

Well, today, December 9th, is Brother Asa's and my birthday. What I want to know is, are we going to celebrate Scripturally?

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Matthew 1:20-21

The angel appeared to Joseph and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." "And she will bring forth a Son, and you will call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

His Name "...and you will call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

The name "Jesus" means Deliverer or Savior.
In the OT the word for deliverer is "Joshua."

Jesus - Christ is not first name and then last name as in Jim Gunn.

His name is who He is and what He does and His name is Savior, Deliverer, Jesus; we call Jesus the Savior, for so He is.

Romans 10:12-13

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Calling on the name of the Lord does not mean mouthing the so-called “sinner’s prayer” and then continuing to live in unrepented sin; but to call is the cry from repentance: “Lord save me, the sinner!”

The people referred to Him as Jesus of Nazareth.

Christ is His title or office. Jesus is the Christ or Messiah. Christ is Greek for anointed and Messiah is Hebrew for anointed. Jesus of Nazareth is the anointed of God to be the Savior of sinners.

Anoint

Brother Miles McKee pointed out that there were three offices in the OT that were anointed: prophet, priest, and king. And then Miles preached that Jesus Christ is Prophet, Priest, and King.

- The practice of anointing with perfumed oil was common among the Hebrews. (1.) The act of anointing was significant of consecration to a holy or sacred use; hence the anointing of the high priest (Ex 29:29; Lev 4:3) and of the sacred vessels (Ex 30:26). The high priest and the king are thus called "the anointed" (Lev 4:3, 5, 16; 6:20; Ps 132:10). Anointing a king was equivalent to crowning him (1 Sam 16:13; 2 Sam 2:4, etc.). Prophets were also anointed (1 Kings 19:16; 1 Chron 16:22; Ps 105:15). The expression, "anoint the shield" (Isa 21:5), refers to the custom of rubbing oil on the leather of the shield so as to make it supple and fit for use in war.

(2.) Anointing was also an act of hospitality (Luke 7:38, 46). It was the custom of the Jews in like manner to anoint themselves with oil, as a means of refreshing or invigorating their bodies (Deut 28:40; Ruth 3:3; 2 Sam 14:2; Ps 104:15, etc.). This custom is continued among the Arabians to the present day.

(3.) Oil was used also for medicinal purposes. It was applied to the sick, and also to wounds (Ps 109:18; Isa 1:6; Mark 6:13; James 5:14).

(4.) The bodies of the dead were sometimes anointed (Mark 14:8; Luke 23:56).

(5.) The promised Deliverer is twice called the "Anointed" or Messiah (Ps 2:2; Dan 9:25, 26), because he was anointed with the Holy Ghost (Isa 61:1), figuratively styled the "oil of gladness" (Ps 45:7; Heb 1:9).

Jesus of Nazareth is this anointed One (John 1:41; Acts 9:22; 17:2, 3; 18:5,28), the Messiah of the Old Testament.

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In Luke 2: 30, Simeon says, **“For my eyes have seen Your salvation.”**

SALVATION [Greek: *soterion* {so-tay'-ree-on} means deliverer; defender.

In order to get to verse 30 let's look at what Dr. Luke writes for us.
[Read Luke 2:1-35 and briefly comment on a few things.]

(1-5) The OT prophet Micah [5:2] had written that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. The angel Gabriel came and told Mary and Joseph about a Son that was to be born of Mary who was a virgin. But Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth of Galilee. If the Christ is to be born according to the Scriptures then somehow Mary had to be in Bethlehem.

In God's wonderful providence He put it in the mind of the emperor, Caesar Augustus to take a census and it "just happened" to coincide with the time that Mary was about to have her baby.

(6-7) In the small town of Bethlehem imagine what the large number of people who had to come for the purpose of being registered would do to the houses and public places to spend a few nights. All the Motel Six's had "No Vacancy" signs turned on.

There was no room in the inn for Joseph and his very pregnant wife Mary. And so amid the hustle of a crowd the Savior of the world is born in a cow stable and laid in a feeding trough.

How utterly elegant is this! The Creator of everything that is not God takes on human flesh and comes in humility and not in the splendor of royalty.

The Jews were expecting Messiah. Oh yes, our “king” will come and deliver us from the oppressive Roman government. They looked for a geopolitical kingdom but the Kingdom of God does not come with observation.

Luke 17:20-21

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation ; 21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

The Kingdom of God is not some future earthly millennial kingdom. The Kingdom of God is the people who have come to faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and King.

Matthew 3:3

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Don't be misled by the bit of sophistry that tries to make the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God two different things. The Lord Jesus Christ used the terms interchangeably.

Matthew 19:23-24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

And so here in a cow stable, with the world not observing nor caring, the Creator of the universe is born as a true Man. He is indeed God but He became a Man and put Himself in the care of a young Jewish virgin girl.

The Kingdom is now among you.

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; Colossians 2:9

Will someone explain how this can be true?

The Creator Who is Mary's Savior lies on her breast and draws His life-giving milk from the creature. Oh the mystery of the Incarnation!

(8-14) But God the Father is not going to let the birth of His only begotten Son go unheralded.

The word "behold" always calls your attention to an unusual sight.

When I get my newspaper at about 4:15 am on a clear night I often stand and admire God's glory and handiwork. "The heavens declare the glory of God...."

Shepherds were busy at their work when "behold" an angel of the Lord appeared and the heavens burst with brilliant glory and they were greatly afraid. Can you imagine being on a quiet hillside at night with the sheep no doubt asleep and as you pondered the heavens all of a sudden they explode with glory?

Silent Night!"

Doesn't sound like a silent night to me. Surely the writer refers to the quietness before the announcement of the Savior's birth.

"Do not be afraid..." This is not intended to frighten you but to bring you "good news" and give you great joy.

The words of the prophet Isaiah [9:6] are now fulfilled. In the city of David [Bethlehem] is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. How will you know who is the Christ child? You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger [feed trough].

Isaiah 9:6
For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;

And suddenly with the angel there was a multitude of heavenly host praising God.... The heavenly host surely included other angels and I believe the heavenly host also included the OT saints, "a great cloud of witnesses" [Hebrews 12:1],

who died in hope and looked for the promise of the Christ to come and actually die for their sins.

(15-20) The shepherds hurry to Bethlehem and just as the angel had said, they find the Babe lying in a manger.

Note: The Magi, who were astrologers, and who watched the stars, will follow a star and come Jerusalem and then to Bethlehem. They had traveled about two years to get to Jerusalem. We know that because Herod tried to kill the boy children two years old and younger. Later they follow that star that guided them to a house in Nazareth where the young child was. [Matthew 2:1-12]

(21) Jesus, through Joseph and Mary, was obedient in all points of the law.

On the 8th day (according to Leviticus 12) Jesus was circumcised.

An aside: Circumcision was the outward sign of a cleansed heart.
Circumcision was the OT sign of regeneration,
Baptism is the NT sign of regeneration.
Circumcision and baptism are both signs of the same thing,
viz. regeneration.

Baptism is not the NT antitype of OT circumcision.

You cannot have a “type of a type.” [Charles D. Alexander on John 7]

Jesus was circumcised even though He needed not to be “born again.”
Jesus was baptized even though He had no sin to repent of.
Jesus fulfilled the law in every aspect.

Notice that Jesus was named before He was conceived in the womb.

There are at least nine people in the Bible who are known before they are born.
[Ishmael, Gen 16:11; Isaac, Gen 18:10; Samson, Judges 13:3; Josiah, 1 Kings 13:2; Shunammite's son, 2 Kings 4:16; Jeremiah, Jer 1:5; Paul Galatians 1:15; John the Baptist, Luke 1:13; and of course, Jesus! Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, Mt 1:21.

God knows everyone before he or she is born.
The LORD is the author of conception?

On Wednesday night we studied the call of Samuel by God and saw that Hannah, Samuel's mother, was barren "because the LORD had closed her womb."

Cf. 1 Samuel 1:6

Also see:

Ruth 4:13

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Since the Lord is the author of conception the circumstances, such as rape and incest, do not justify killing an unborn human baby.

So when Jesus was eight days old and while He was still in Bethlehem He was circumcised according to the law that He gave to Moses, the Law that He came not to destroy but to fulfill.

Matthew 5:17

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

(22) It is now 33 days later and Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to (according to Leviticus 12) to the temple for Mary's purification. After childbirth, and until the normal monthly cycle is restored, a woman was ceremonially unclean. She had to make an offering to be allowed back in the place of worship.

Note carefully that Jesus was circumcised at eight days old and while He was still in Bethlehem and then 33 days later He is brought to the temple in Jerusalem for Mary's purification.

(23 This is the law of the first-born (Ex 13:1-2, 12, 15)

The Redeemer is Himself "redeemed" though He needed not to be redeemed. This is the same principle as His circumcision and baptism.

Jesus is fulfilling all righteousness as the Substitute for sinners.

(24) Notice that the sacrificial offering is a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons which means that Joseph and Mary were poor. The Magi will come later and bring gold, frankincense, and myrrh. If the Magi had appeared at the manger as all of the manger scenes indicate Joseph and Mary would not have made the offering of poor people.

Simeon

(25) BEHOLD [*idou*, id-oo' imperative lo!], Look!

What is there to behold? I will tell you what is astonishing; a believer among the religious frauds and hypocrites. Most of the religious leaders, the scribes and the Pharisees, were hypocrites and Jesus said that they did not know God!
[Cf. John 8:47]

SIMEON [*sumeon* soom-eh-one'] God hears.

JUST [*dikaïos* dik'-ah-yos] equitable, innocent, before men;

DEVOUT [*eulabes* yoo-lab-ace'] circumspect, pious, unto God.

WAITING, patiently,

For the CONSOLATION [*paraklesis* par-ak'-lay-sis ,solace, comfort, of Israel, i.e., Messiah. And the HOLY SPIRIT was upon him.

(26) Do you know anyone who has been struggling with predestination or the doctrine of the providence of God? Could anything kill Simeon before this promise from God the Holy Spirit is fulfilled?

Notice that Simeon had no fear of dying.
Simeon [no doubt an old man] believed God, as did Abraham.

(27-28) Simeon came to the temple to see the consolation of Israel; what he saw was a young couple holding a baby boy. The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

Here is a picture of the Old Covenant embracing the New Covenant: all the centuries of types and shadows and Messianic prophecy in the OT are now being held in the arms of an old man. Messiah is come!

(29) **Lord** – Simeon uses the strongest Greek word for master/owner.

DESPOT – *despotes* (des-pot'-ace); (a husband); an absolute ruler (“despot”):
KJV - Lord, master, absolute sovereign.

Lord, now you can let me die.

“For my eyes have seen Your salvation.”

(30-32) Simeon surely recalls the Scripture:

Psalm 27:1

**The LORD is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?**

Isaiah 49:6

**6 Indeed He says,
'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant
To raise up the tribes of Jacob,
And to restore the preserved ones of Israel;
I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles,
That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'"**

Isaiah 52:10

**10 The LORD has made bare His holy arm
In the eyes of all the nations;
And all the ends of the earth shall see
The salvation of our God.**

Isaiah 53:1-3

**Who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
And as a root out of dry ground.
He has no form or comeliness;
And when we see Him,
There is no beauty that we should desire Him.
3 He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.**

There are many more Scriptures that could have been latent in the heart of Simeon, this devout and just man, as he “waited for the consolation of Israel.”

Please do not miss the Hebrew parallelism of verse 32 which associates the **gentiles** with true Israel, **“the Israel of God”** [Galatians 6:16].

The “Israel of God” is made up of believers like Simeon and you as well if you have believed in Jesus:

Romans 10:5-13

5 For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." **6** But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) **7** or, "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **8** But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."
12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. **13** For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Here is the “name of the Lord”; it is Jesus and He is the only Savior!

(33) Joseph and Mary marveled!

Have you ever “marveled at anything?”
Marvel: *to be filled with admiring surprise.*

We call a soft drink “wonderful”! I do not stand in awe of a can of soda!

What is it that would cause Joseph and Mary to “marvel”?

They had been assured by the angel Gabriel that Mary’s child, conceived by the Holy Spirit, in the womb of a virgin was the Holy One, the Son of God. Hagion, Luke 1:35, is the same word in Hebrew 9:3; Holy of Holies, where God meets with man. Here is a man who recognizes the infant Jesus as Messiah and they had not told him a thing! And so they marveled!

(34) Simeon is now a prophet. Jesus will be the Great Divider.

Jesus was an offense to many in Jewry and as they rejected the Messiah it was to be their downfall and final rejection of the nation by God. The Old Covenant is passing away and all of its types and rituals and sacrifices are here in the person of a little baby.

Many will fall but others will rise because they will know that the “sign” of Isaiah 7:14 has finally come.

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

(35) Mary, your heart will grieve, but the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.

Romans 2:16

... in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

* * *

What are some of the applications from this passage?

Simeon did not have to wait for Jesus to go to the cross.

God granted Simeon faith and revealed the Gospel of Substitution to him.

Simeon’s faith had an object, Jesus the Christ.

Saving faith is objective, i.e. it has substance; it is not a “feeling.”

Saving faith is absolutely bound up in the person of Jesus Christ and in nothing or no one else. It is not Jesus plus your baptism. It is not Jesus plus being a member of the church. Trust only in the righteousness of Jesus Christ or you will have denied the very One that you profess to believe in.

Simeon could tell you what he believed and why. In this Postmodern age of pluralism where any belief system is considered to be valid, the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. Judgment is certain!

My heart was saddened about two years ago when a Baptist preacher in Birmingham was quoted in the newspaper as saying that the Jews were “safe.”

That Baptist preacher called Jesus Christ a liar!

The Mormon “Jesus” is not the Jesus of this bible.
The “Jesus” of Jehovah’s Witness is a created being.
Islam is not a way to God.
Buddha’s principles are not a way to God.
The New Age will not make you a “god”.
Not even the blessed Mary is a way to God.

There is only one Savior for Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles).
Jesus the Christ came into the world to save sinners.

We all are sinners but a redeemed sinner is someone that has been convinced and convicted by the Holy Spirit that they deserve to be in hell. I will be bold to say that if you do not agree that you deserve to be in hell that you are not saved. You are not saved because you are clinging to some shred of self-righteousness.

Most people today would say they are not good enough to go to heaven; but they certainly don’t think they are bad enough to go to hell!

Salvation is a Person.
Jesus is not a baby anymore.
Simeon had a faith to live by and to die by.
What are you living for? What would you die for?
Enjoy your family and rejoice in the season and Merry Christmas!

And marvel at what God did to save sinners!

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